AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended)   A device for secure access to digital media contents, the device comprising an access means for accessing digital media contents from a data source and a reader for authenticating a user, the authentication being performed by checking some authentication data, <u>the device further comprising</u> ~~characterized by~~ an internal communication path between the access means and the reader<u>, the communication path being</u> ~~which is~~ not directly accessible from outside the device.

2. (Currently amended)   The device according to claim 1, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the device only has a single electrical interface for connection to a host.

3. (Currently amended)   The device according to claim 2, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the single electrical interface represents at least two logical interfaces, a first logical interface being compatible to the digital media and a second logical interface being compatible to the authentication data.

4. (Currently amended)   The device according to claim 3, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the single electrical interface is designed according to one of the following standards: USB, SCSI, Firewire, PCMCIA, WiFi, Bluetooth, HyperLAN.

5. (Currently amended)   The device according to <u>claim 1, wherein</u> ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the access means and the reader share a common

processing unit.

6. (Currently amended)   The device according to <u>claim 1, wherein</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the access means and the reader use different processing units, the communication path including a communication channel between the processing units.

7. (Currently amended)   The device according to <u>claim 1, wherein</u> ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the access means and the reader are accommodated in a single housing.

8. (Currently amended)   The device according to <u>claim 1, wherein</u> ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the reader is a smart card reader capable of accessing a key stored on a smart card.

9. (Currently amended)   The device according to claim 8, <u>further comprising</u> ~~characterized in that the device comprises~~ means for entering a PIN code and is capable of releasing the key after a PIN code match is determined.

10. (Currently amended)   The device according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the smart card containing the key is interfaced to the smart card reader through one of the following interfaces: ISO 7816, I2C, Contactless Smart Card Interface.

11. (Currently amended)   The device according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 8<u>, wherein</u> ~~to~~

~~10, characterized in that~~ the smart card is embedded inside the reader.

12. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein ~~to 7, characterized in that~~ the reader is capable of retrieving biometric information from the user.

13. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the reader includes one of the following: a fingerprint sensor, an iris recognition means, a face recognition means, a voice recognition means.

14. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the data source is one of the following: a hard disk, a removable disk, a CD, a DVD, a flash memory embedded inside the device, a removable flash memory.

15. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein ~~to 13, characterized in that~~ the access means includes a modem capable of retrieving data from a remote network~~, especially from the internet~~.

16. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one of the access means and the reader is a module which can be inserted into and removed from the device.

17. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 15~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one of the access means and the reader is a system-on-chip

(SOC) or a single chip system.

18 (Currently amended)   A virtual multi-interface driver for supporting a device having at least two device functions and being connectable to a host via a single electrical interface, ~~characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver <u>reporting</u> ~~reports~~ at least two logical interfaces to <u>a</u> ~~the~~ system software of the host, ~~in~~ the logical interfaces including at least one virtual interface in addition to the single electrical interface.

19. (Currently amended)   The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver <u>being</u> ~~is~~ capable of switching between the two logical interfaces in response to a switch command.

20. (Currently amended)   The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18 ~~or 19, characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver <u>being capable of creating</u> ~~creates~~ a virtual user authentication interface.

21. (Currently amended)   The virtual multi-interface driver according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 18 ~~to 20, characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver <u>being capable of converting</u> ~~converts~~ commands received from <u>an</u> ~~the~~ operating system of the host into a format compatible with the single electrical interface.

22. (Currently amended)   The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver <u>being capable of converting</u> ~~converts~~ commands from a smart card command format into an SCSI command format.

23. (Currently amended)   The virtual multi-interface driver according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 18 ~~to 22, characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of reporting ~~reports~~ n-1 virtual interfaces to a ~~the~~ system software of the host, with n being the number of device functions.

24. (Currently amended)   A system for secure access to digital media contents, the system comprising

a host,

a device comprising an access means for accessing digital media contents from a data source and a reader for authenticating a user, the authentication being performed by checking some authentication data, the device further comprisisng an internal communication path between the access means and the reader, the communication path being not directly accessible from outside the device, and ~~according to any of claims 1 to 17,~~

a virtual multi-interface driver for supporting a device having at least two device functions and being connectable to the host via a single electrical interface, the virtual multi-interface driver reporting at least two logical interfaces to a system software of the host, the logical interfaces including at least one virtual interface in addition to the single electrical interface ~~according to any of claims 18 to 23 and a host~~.

25. (Currently amended)   The system according to claim 24, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the device is connected to the host via a single electrical interface provided on the device, thus only a single data channel being provided for communication between the device and the host.

26. (Currently amended)   The system according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~, wherein

~~characterized in that~~ the virtual multi-interface driver acts as an interface between

~~the~~ drivers of the access means and ~~of~~ the reader, <u>the drivers of the access means</u>

<u>and the reader being</u> ~~which are~~ loaded by <u>a</u> ~~the~~ system software of the host, on the one

side and

the single electrical interface of the device on the other side.

27. (Currently amended)   The system according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] <u>25</u> ~~24 to 26~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the host comprises means for entering a PIN code, the PIN

code or a derivative thereof being communicated to the device via the single data channel.

28. (Currently amended)   The system according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 24 ~~to 27~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the device is accommodated inside the host.

29. (Currently amended)   The system according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 24 ~~to 27~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the device is an external unit remote from the host.

30. (Currently amended)   The system according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 24 ~~to 29~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the device comprises a plurality of device functions, the

virtual multi-interface driver reporting n-1 virtual interfaces to <u>a</u> ~~the~~ system software of the

host, with n being the number of device functions provided in the device.